

The email below was forwarded on 23 September to the HE Byte team by a member of the home educating community. We can confirm that the response below is from the Welsh Assembly Government. In it the author clarifies the arrangements for the three 'Table Talk' Regional Workshops in mid-October.

The [official invitation](#) stated that parents and children's sessions will run in parallel, but gave no details of the arrangements. The email explains further the arrangements but not the purpose of the children and young people sessions, other than to satisfy the UNCRC requirements.

We continue to advise parents to think carefully before placing unaccompanied children in those sessions.

The HE Byte Team

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Good afternoon XXXXXX

Carol has asked me to respond to your email as she is unavailable today.

In terms of registering names for the events this is purely in order for the company running the events to have an idea the numbers of people - parents/ stakeholders and other interested parties - that will be attending. If people choose to register under alternative names that is up to them. Markit/Cazbah who are running the events will **not** be providing Welsh Government the names of those attending - there are no plans to verify names or use details following the events.

Welsh Ministers must, when exercising any of their functions, have due regard to the UNCRC. The children and young people sessions have been set up in order to comply with this duty and provide an opportunity for children and young people to have their voices heard if they *choose* to do so. This is an offer and there is no compulsion for children and young people to attend the separate discussions. Attendance is optional and if parents prefer to keep their children with them in the main sessions then they are welcome to do so. Equally if parents want to sit with their children in the children and young person's sessions they can. Furthermore, there is no intention of "interviewing" children in a separate room - these are group sessions giving young people an opportunity to have their say in a variety of methods - whichever suits them - be it video, feedback sheets, discussion. These sessions will be facilitated by people who are experienced in working with children and young people with a range of needs and abilities.

I hope this goes some way to allay your concerns.

[Cofion/Regards](#)

[Wendy Thomas](#)

[Uwch Rheolwr Polisi Addysg Ddewison yn y Cartref ac Ysgolion Annibynnol/](#)  
[Elective Home Education and Independent Schools Senior Policy Manager](#)

[Y Gangen Lles Disgyblion/Pupil Wellbeing Branch](#)

[Y Gyfarw Addysg/ The Education Directorate](#)

[Y Grwp Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus / Education and Public Services Group](#)

[Llywodraeth Cymru/ Welsh Government](#)